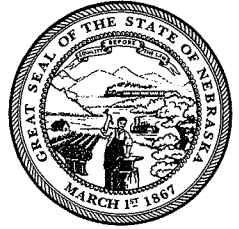


STATE OF NEBRASKA

DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

L. Tim Wagner
Director



Dave Heineman
Governor

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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Nebraska SHIIP Receives Performance Award

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) recently awarded a performance bonus to the Nebraska Senior Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) for demonstrating achievement in providing a high level of service to people with Medicare.

"As Medicare continues to change, it's important that Nebraska residents have access to quality information and advice," said Governor Dave Heineman. "The Nebraska SHIIP has taken a strong leadership role in providing that assistance to our Medicare beneficiaries."

CMS introduced the Performance Plus Awards as incentive to the 54 state health insurance assistance programs to provide greater services to Medicare beneficiaries. Nebraska was chosen as one of 13 programs to receive the award.

Eligibility for the award was based on several criteria, including numbers of one-on-one counseling sessions, educational activities, and total volunteers in relation to total Nebraska Medicare beneficiaries. Outreach and enrollment events relating to the implementation of Medicare Part D were also considered.

The Nebraska SHIIP relies heavily on the efforts of volunteer counselors across the state to provide free, unbiased counseling and information regarding Medicare, Medicaid, and other health insurance. With over 200 volunteers across the state, the SHIIP is coordinated within the Nebraska Department of Insurance. Jina Ragland is the program's director.

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"This is quite an honor for our state and the dedicated volunteers of the SHIIP," said Tim Wagner, Director of the Department of Insurance. "The objective advice these individuals and our regional contractors provide to Nebraska Medicare beneficiaries is both essential and invaluable."

For more information on the Nebraska Senior Health Insurance Information Program, or to locate a volunteer in your area, call 1-800-234-7119.

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The Nebraska Senior Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) is part of a national network, funded by a grant from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, that offers unbiased counseling and educational services designed to help senior citizens and those with disabilities make informed decisions on topics related to health insurance. With over 200 volunteers across the state, the Nebraska SHIIP is coordinated within the Nebraska Department of Insurance.